



December 2012

New medical clinic opens, strengthens partnerships

Service members from the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, in partnership with representatives from the U.S. Embassy Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Health and residents of the Nizhne-Chuysk Village gathered on Nov. 15, to celebrate the grand opening of the village's new medical clinic.

The project, which is valued at more than \$100,000, was a combined humanitarian assistance effort between the Transit Center's Theater Security Cooperation division, the U.S. Embassy Bishkek and U.S. Agency for International Development. Designed to serve the more than 5,000 village residents, the fully furnished clinic can now provide immediate access to health care.

"As a member of the greater Bishkek community for nearly 11 years, the Transit

Center has partnered often with the U.S. Embassy [Bishkek] and the Kyrgyz Republic to improve the lives of Kyrgyz citizens. Like this medical clinic, many of those projects are partnerships with the Ministry of Health," said Col. Corey Martin, Transit Center director. "I am very happy that a by-product of the U.S. military presence in Kyrgyzstan is a wonderful project like this 130 square meter clinic, which will help support the health care needs



Photos by: Staff Sgt. Stephanie Rubi

Above: Center, Basarov Ramazan Bubaevich, Mayor of Nizhne-Chuysk cuts a ribbon with the assistance of representatives from the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, U.S. Embassy Bishkek, and the Kyrgyz Republic officially opening a new village medical clinic Nov. 15, 2012. The project, valued at more than \$100,000, is part of a continued partnership between the U.S. and Kyrgyz Republic.



Left: Col. Shirlene Ostrov, 376th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander is honored by a Nizhne-Chuysk village resident during the medical clinic dedication ceremony.

of 5,000 local villagers."

Echoing the colonel's sentiments, David McCormick, U.S. Embassy Bishkek acting deputy chief of mission, spoke about how this project is a "culmination of a combined effort between the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States to effectively help and enhance the medical care within the [Nizhne-Chuysk] village for years to come."

The clinic construction and on-site installation, managed

by the Transit Center's TSC team, was completed "ahead of schedule and included basic medical equipment, such as examination tables, scales and diagnostic equipment," said Capt. Jason Donovan, Transit Center TSC division medical director.

This is a tangible outcome to a continued, strong partnership between the Transit Center and the Kyrgyz Republic - together, we are able to effectively improve quality of life for the village residents by

empowering them to provide timely, adequate medical care, he said.

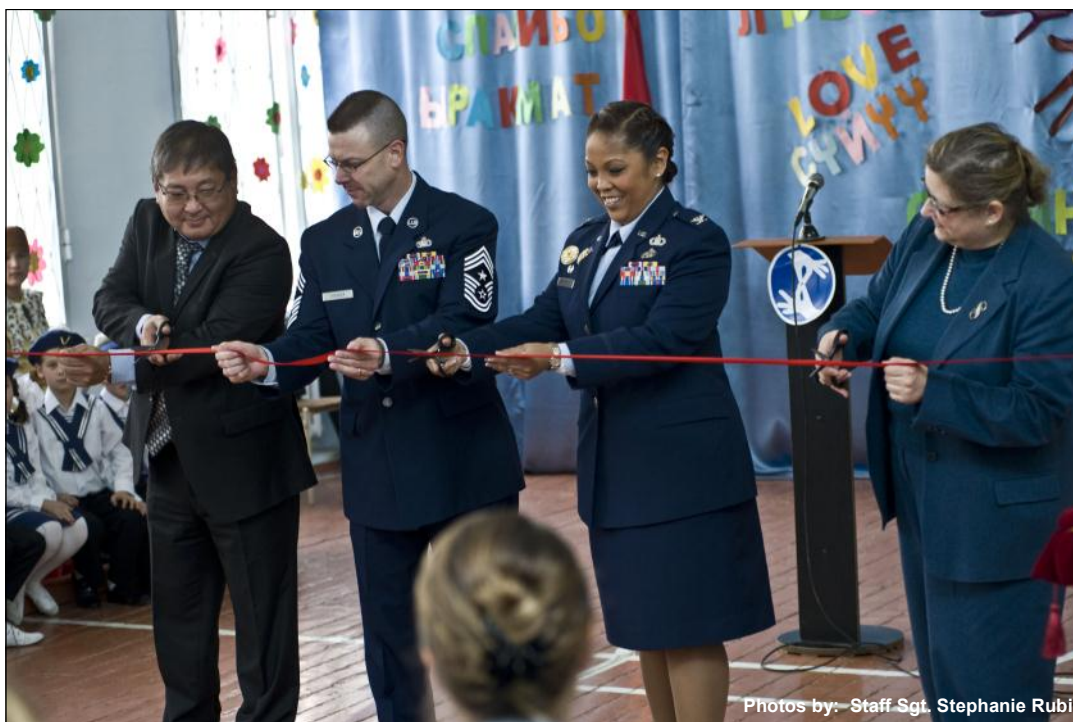
Kyrgyz Deputy Ministry of Health Marat Temirbekovich thanked the U.S. government and also praised the new capabilities of the clinic stating that our doctors, nurses and medical assistants can now help our citizens by providing medical assistance where needed, improving the overall health and quality of life for the Chui Oblast residents.

School for the Deaf celebrates renovations, partnership

Representatives from the Transit Center at Manas, U.S. Embassy Bishkek and the Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Education, together in partnership with the Bishkek School for the Deaf teachers and administrators, celebrated the completion of the school's renovation with a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony, Dec. 11.

The project, which is valued at more than \$230,000, included the installation of more than 300 new windows, roofing and the resurfacing of school's exterior walls; the humanitarian assistance effort was managed by the Transit Center's Theater Security Cooperation division in direct cooperation and coordination with representatives from the U.S. Embassy and Ministry of Education.

Today is a culmination of amazing work, but what is even more amazing is the work being done within the school's walls, said Col. Shirlene Ostrov, 376th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander. "The spirit of generosity, volunteerism and inclusion connects us all; I sincerely



Photos by: Staff Sgt. Stephanie Rubi

Above, from left to right, Marat Usevaliev, Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Education's Second Education Department, Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Creager, 376th Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, Col. Shirlene Ostrov, 376th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander, and Laura Griesmer, U.S. Embassy Bishkek deputy chief of mission, cut the dedication ribbon for the Bishkek School for the Deaf in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Dec. 11, 2012.

hope that with these improvements to the facility your students will continue to thrive."

These sentiments were echoed by Marat Usevaliev, Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Education's Head of Second Education department.

"Education in our country is important and we strive to provide support and improve facilities for our future generations.

This gift to the students--these renovations--will always stay in their hearts," he said.

Speaking on the continued

partnership between the U.S. and the Kyrgyz Republic, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Laura Griesmer said that she sees the direct correlation between these improvements and the ongoing creation of a better learning environment for the students.

"The warmth and comfort provided by the new windows and roof positively enhances the development of the students, along with serving

as a tangible representation of the strong partnership between the U.S. and the Kyrgyz Republic."

"The spirit of generosity, volunteerism and inclusion connects us all."

**- Col. Shirlene Ostrov
376 EMSG commander**

Following the symbolic ribbon cutting, the students performed a variety of traditional dances from the Kyrgyz Republic and abroad. "The

new windows and roof look amazing," signed students during their final performance.

Overall, the project was completed three months ahead of schedule and the overarching concept was designed to improve the quality of life for the students. Guests were also treated to a tour of the facility in which they viewed the improvements and spoke with teachers and students.



A Bishkek School for the Deaf student performs a dance for more than 140 guests during a dedication ceremony. The school accepts and boards hearing impaired children from across Kyrgyzstan, who range from kindergarten to high school age.

TCM Airmen clear path to Kyrgyz Republic kindergarten

Service members from the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, visited students from the Leninskoe Kindergarten School and assisted in clearing snow after a storm, Nov. 30, 2012.

The group was comprised of Airmen from the 376th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron who volunteer their time each week to visit the kindergarten and work on a myriad of projects enhancing the quality of life of students and faculty.

The excessive snow presented a challenge to the teachers and the Airmen put other projects aside to address the more immediate problem of heavy snow piled on walkways. The removal of the snow allowed the kids to play in the schoolyard and playground.

"Today, we cleared all the pathways, driveways and play areas. Recently, we repaired a broken heater, and insulated the doors and windows to help mitigate the cold. Our goal is to try to do what we can to assist," said Lt. Bradley

McNamara, 376 EAMXS KC-135 Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge, who is a native of Melbourne, Fla. and deployed from Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

The faculty of the Leninskoe School appreciates the efforts of the Airmen.

"The representatives from the Transit Center have come once a week for two years and they help a lot. We need assistance with some of the bigger projects and they always respond. The whole area has improved because of their efforts," said Malvina Vladmiravna, a teacher at the school.

"They help with so many things. Many



Photo by: Staff Sgt. Matt Benedetti

Airmen from the 376th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron clear a driveway at the Leninskoe Kindergarten School, Nov. 29, 2012. The Airmen pay weekly visits to the school to assist with various projects designed to enhance the quality of life for the students and teachers.

parents and neighbors have noticed the improvement of conditions throughout the property," said Vladmiravna.

"Everyone in the neighborhood knows and is grateful for their efforts."

U.S., Kyrgyz Republic medics discuss mental health issues

Airmen from the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group hosted medical technicians from the Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Defense for an information exchange at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, Dec. 6, 2012.

The exchange familiarized Transit Center Airmen and their Kyrgyz Republic counterparts with one another's methods, practices and techniques.

The MOD personnel, who serve as nurses and physician assistants, and

their Transit Center hosts discussed matters pertaining to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. The discussion covered different approaches relative to combat stress, reactions to traumatic events and suicide prevention; participants also discussed PTSD warning signs and indicators, symptoms and methods of handling these situations during combat.

Cpts. Seth Wilson, 376th EMG mental health flight commander, and Emily Graze, mental health clinical physiologist, respectively participated in the exchange, discussing all aspects of PTSD.

"After a traumatic event, having difficulty sleeping, changes in mood, or being a little bit more anxious is normal," Wilson said. "We often fear what we don't know and some stress is good but also being able to

identify when stress [may be] controlling you is important."

"This was my first time participating in the exchange," said Graze. "I had such a positive experience and learned so much about the [Kyrgyz Republic] medical field and what resources they have available to them."

Both groups discussed mental health practices and similarities between the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Dinara Kutlikova, Kyrgyz Republic MOD Special Forces paramedic, felt the information enlightened her.

"I already knew how to cope on personal level because I've had traumatic experiences in my life but I have 80 soldiers I'm in charge of taking care of [medically]," said Kutlikova. "I'm learning different ways and tips to help them cope."



Photo by: Staff Sgt. Stephanie Rubi

Dinara Kutlikova, Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Defense Special Forces paramedic, speaks to her colleagues during an information exchange at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, Dec. 6, 2012. Partnership exchanges in a joint environment allow for the flow of ideas enabling Airmen and their Kyrgyz Republic colleagues to learn from one another.

Kyrgyz, U.S. partnership warms Stepnoe school

With fresh snowfall and freezing temperatures outside, representatives from the Transit Center at Manas, U.S. Embassy Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Education and local Kyrgyz officials gathered with students and staff at the Stepnoe Secondary school to celebrate the completion of recent renovations aimed at improving the school's heating capability, Dec. 13.

The humanitarian assistance project, facilitated by the Transit Center's Theater Security Cooperation division, included installation of new doors, windows and boiler, as well as a security fence and roof to secure coal reserves, for a total value of \$66,000.

While the project took just four months to complete, the renovations were long-needed. Stepnoe Secondary School, which educates children from the first to eleventh grade, was first built in 1993. The school was still operating on the original coal furnace, which had become worn out and inefficient, said the School Principal Gubatulina Yana Anverovna.

Upon her arrival at the school three years ago, Anverovna attempted to contact various non-governmental organizations and aid agencies, asking for assistance in renovating the school. It wasn't until she heard about heating renovations completed by the Transit Center at a nearby school that she met with success. Transit Center representatives were able to coordinate with the U.S. Embassy Bishkek and the Kyrgyz Republic MoE to develop the renovation plan and make it a reality.

"Since opening, our employees have tried to make the school better," Anverovna said. "The staff tried hard to make improvements but there was not a lot of funding, so they could only do what they could with their hands – decorate, create a fun lesson. We were happy when the Transit Center said the renovation project would be carried out."

The children at Stepnoe Secondary School are fortunate to have such a caring staff of teachers and administrators, said Army Maj. Joel Kleehammer, U.S. Embassy Bishkek Office of Military Cooperation chief.

"As a result of their initiative, this renovation project will help the staff to provide a quality education in a more



Photo by: Tech. Sgt. Rachel Martinez

A student peers through a new window at the Stepnoe Secondary School in Stepnoe, Kyrgyzstan, Dec. 13, 2012. The new windows were part of a renovation project completed in partnership with the Transit Center at Manas, U.S. Embassy Bishkek and Kyrgyz Republic aimed at improving the heating capability in the 20-year-old school.

comfortable learning environment," Kleehammer said.

Amankulov Marat Sharshenovich is a physical education teacher at the school and can attest to the benefits of a partnership between the Transit Center and the Kyrgyz Republic MoE.

"The aid given is crucial because people here don't have the time and resources to always help," he said. "The Transit Center helps not one, but many schools in the region. We value their work – I know how important this work is and how much effort was put into it."

Personally, Sharshenovich says the renovations will help him keep his students accountable to the standards. Last winter, he could not ask his students to wear the sports uniform, especially in the gym, because it was too cold for them.

"Last winter it was dark and cold, now it is warm and bright," Sharshenovich said. "Now I can actually have my students wear the proper uniform and hold them to the standards."

The relationship between the Transit Center and Stepnoe School goes beyond the renovations. Members of the 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling

Squadron and the students and administrators of Stepnoe have enjoyed a particularly close relationship, said Lt. Col. Russell Davis, 22 EARS commander. The squadron has become a community partner with the school, dedicating time and resources to improve the quality of life for the students, while at the same time, making lasting friendships.

"We have spent valuable time getting to know each other," Davis said. "We understand the importance of educating our children and seek ways to make our homes, both temporary and permanent, better."

"Education is a noble profession and educators have chosen to make a difference," Davis told those educators in attendance at the Stepnoe renovation ceremony.

"Because of you, the future of Kyrgyzstan is secure. You are developing the next generation of Kyrgyz leaders, and that brings security," he added.

Following the renovation ceremony, guests were given a tour of the coal storage area and boiler room, and then treated to music and dance performances by local students.

Kyrgyz Republic Parliament experiences air refueling



Photos by: Senior Airman Brett Clashman

Tursunbay Bakir Uulu observes out the back of a KC-135 Stratotanker as Master Sgt. Benjamin Cobb explains what a boom operator's responsibility is during an air refueling demonstration over Kyrgyzstan, Nov. 2, 2012. Members of the Kyrgyz Republic Parliament toured the Transit Center at Manas and experienced an air refueling capabilities demonstration. Cobb is a 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron boom operator and Uulu is a member of the Kyrgyz Republic Parliament.



Master Sgt. Benjamin Cobb explains how aircraft receive fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker to Nargiza Kanaeva during an air refueling demonstration over Kyrgyzstan, Nov. 2, 2012. Kanaeva is a member of the Kyrgyz Republic Parliament.



Tech. Sgt. Sergey Aguryanov translates as Tursunbay Bakir Uulu and Col. Corey Martin discuss how the boom litter operates on the back of a KC-135 Stratotanker during an air refueling demonstration over Kyrgyzstan, Nov. 2, 2012. Martin is the Transit Center director, Aguryanov is a Transit Center Theatre Security Cooperation host nation liaison.

Transit Center Economic Impact as of Nov. 30, 2012

Direct Expenditures	FY09 Actual	FY10 Actual	FY11 Actual	FY12 YTD	FY13 YTD
Payments to Kyrgyz Govt - Dip Note	\$26,620,000	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$15,000,000
Payments to Manas International Airport	\$22,999,039				
Lease, Passes, Utilities		\$4,029,091	\$7,817,140	\$4,475,365	\$2,355,128
Aircraft Landing, Parking, Service Fees		\$21,157,571	\$19,460,590	\$21,301,884	\$2,718,112
Contributions to Airport Improvements	\$30,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,658,294	\$108,049
Contributions to Kyrgyz Aeronavigation	\$0	\$0	\$30,000,000	\$60,505	\$58,8000
Contract Payments (Furniture, Sports Equipment, Parts, Supplies, Buildings, Renovations, Road Repairs, Grounds Maintenance, Refuse, Custodial, Vehicle Leases)	\$24,601,908	\$42,790,517	\$30,916,871	\$31,567,612	\$4,287,120
Leases (non-MIA)	\$81,562	\$66,596	\$120,698	\$115,612	\$2,438
Programmatic Humanitarian Assistance	\$1,700,000	\$2,273,488	\$823,634	\$1,887,684	\$0
Subtotal Direct Expenditures	\$106,602,509	\$130,317,263	\$149,138,933	\$140,066,956	\$24,529,647
Indirect Expenditures					
Estimated U.S. military local spending	\$1,037,530	\$1,161,743	\$1,427,396	\$2,011,226	\$483, 827
Subtotal Indirect Expenditures	\$1,037,530	\$1,161,743	\$1,427,396	\$2,011,226	\$483,827
Total Economic Impact	\$107,640,039	\$131,479,006	\$150,566,329	\$142,078,182	\$25,013,474
DLA Jet Fuel Payments (GAK)				\$208,137,115	\$40,108,891

Kyrgyz Republic aviation officers visit TCM

Personnel from the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing hosted officers from the Frunze 1 Air Base for a language exchange at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, Nov. 28, 2012.

The objective of the visit was to familiarize the Kyrgyz Republic pilots with English terminology relative to air operations. The exchange included briefings on a myriad of topics pertaining to efficient flight communications.

The visit is part of a continuing informational exchange program that familiarizes Airmen from the Transit Center and their Kyrgyz Republic colleagues with one another's methods, practices and techniques.

Col. Robert Mallets, 376 AEW vice commander and career aviator, enjoyed hosting his counterparts.



Photo by: Staff Sgt. Stephanie Rubi
Col. Atayev Aladashbekovich, Kyrgyz Republic helicopter pilot, attends the Koi Tosh language exchange at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, Nov. 28, 2012.

“Today's visit was a great exchange for the Frunze 1 leadership and our team here at the Transit Center. We are encouraged by the continued

participation in these military to military exchanges,” he said.

“We are always enthusiastic to share the processes and procedures we use to remain a premier Air Force. In every exchange with our host nation partners, I learn something new about their military and culture,” said Mallets. “We are eager to carry out the mission and serve our respective countries. Our Kyrgyz Republic partners are no different.”

“We look forward to having more of these important exchanges to share our processes and provide our partners with a greater understanding of how we conduct our mission. Today, we provided them with not just the language exchange, but also a briefing on who we are and what we do here at the Transit Center. We always

look for opportunities to share our story,” he said.

“We hope that these military leaders will share the Transit Center story and experiences with their units and families so that all understand that our mission here is for the betterment of the region and the local communities,” said Mallets.

Col. Sidora Vyacheslavovich, a helicopter pilot at Frunze 1 Airbase, found the visit to be instructive.

“I think this event is another step in continuing our partnership, specifically in the area of aviation,” he said.

“It helps us understand the terminology used in the air control towers, the briefing will also help our flying crew members understand instruction,” said Vyacheslavovich.